

Appl. No. 09/820,501
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks and arguments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gossler et al., United States Patent 5,799,173 (Gossler) in view of Ezerzer et al., United States Patent 6,697,858.

Applicant respectfully traverses each rejection. However, enclosed herewith is a declaration by inventors which recite facts that establish conception of the invention prior to August 14, 2000, coupled with due diligence from prior to August 14, 2000 to the filing date of this application on March 29, 2001. The declaration is accompanied by copies of documentation supporting the facts recited therein.

It is respectfully submitted that the enclosed declaration is effective to remove Ezerzer which has a filing date of August 14, 2000 as a prior art reference under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 and that Claims 1-17 are therefore allowable. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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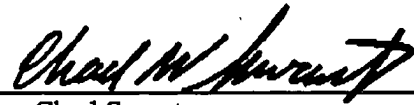
CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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